

A historical black and white photograph of a downtown street in Westfield, N.J. The street is lined with multi-story brick buildings. On the left, a building has a striped awning over its entrance. In the center, a building has a sign that says "OWL". A horse-drawn carriage is in the middle of the street, and a trolley is visible further down the road. Several people are walking on the sidewalks. The sky is overcast, and there are bare trees on the right side of the street.

Downtown Westfield

Phase I: Preliminary Survey

Purpose

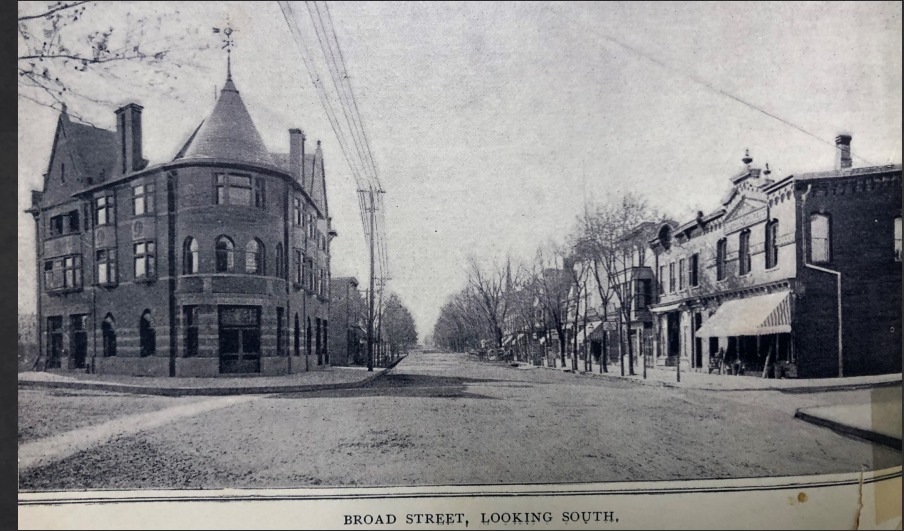
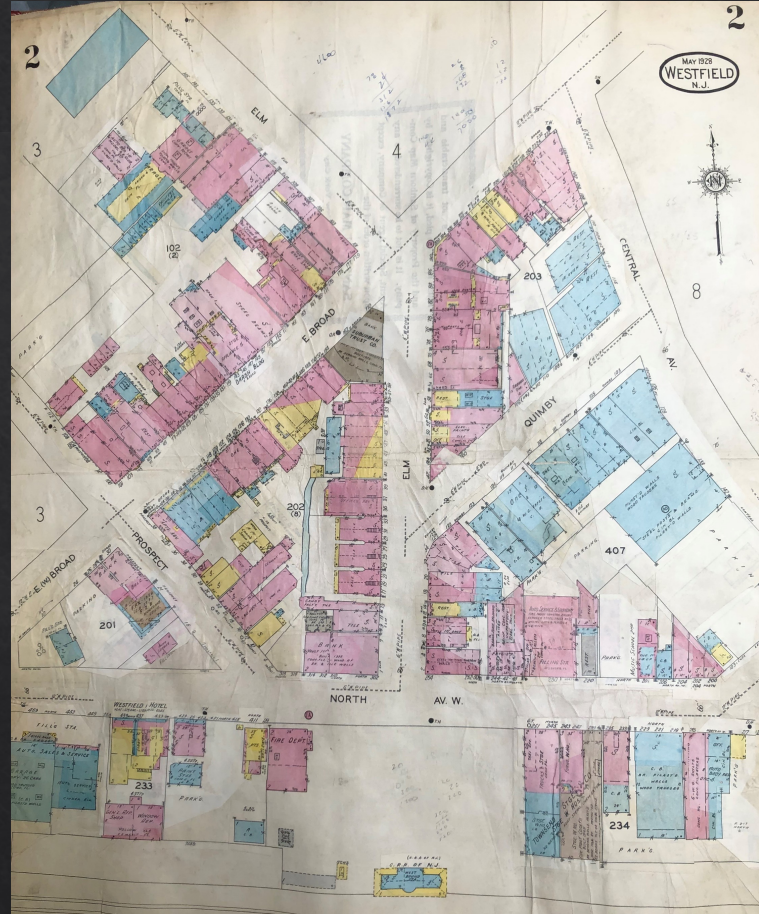
Preliminary architectural survey for Downtown Westfield:

- review the Downtown historic district proposed in the 2002 Historic Preservation Element
- update the boundaries as necessary
- provide a brief historical overview of the development of Downtown and architectural descriptions of the properties
- make recommendations for future study

Scope of Work:

- physical survey of the resources
- photography
- architectural descriptions
- preliminary historic research on the development of downtown Westfield
- recommendations for further study.

Research and Mapping



Reviewed historic maps and images to gain an understanding of the downtown's physical evolution.

Fieldwork



Field surveyed the downtown to review existing conditions, level of integrity of the buildings individually and as a cohesive whole, documented each building in photographs, and assessed appropriate boundaries based on historical evolution, integrity, continuity, and other related factors.

Boundaries

101 East Broad Street (constructed 1889)



Early-19th-century view





11 East Broad Street
(constructed c.1900)

154 East Broad Street (First National Bank)



c.1930 Image



201 East Broad Street (Arcanum Hall constructed 1892)



1906 Image



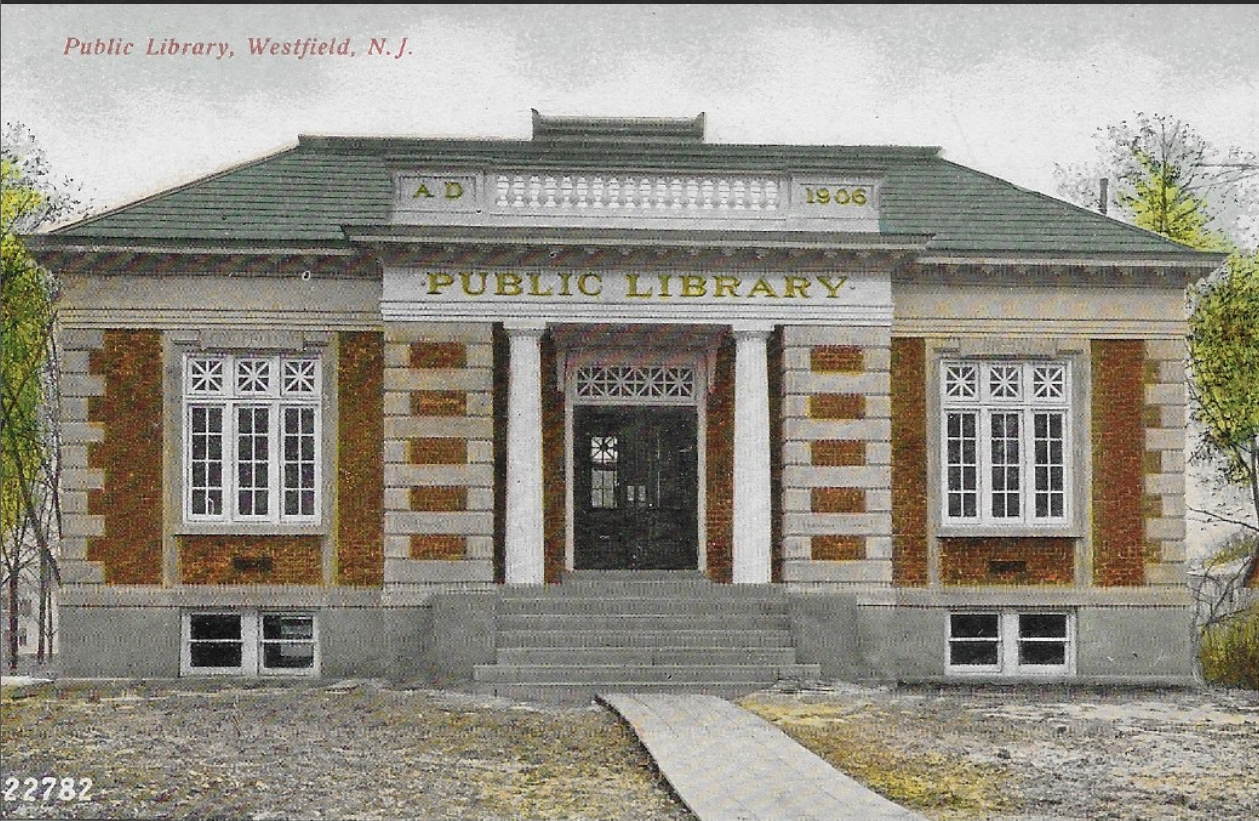
234 East Broad Street



244-254 East Broad Street



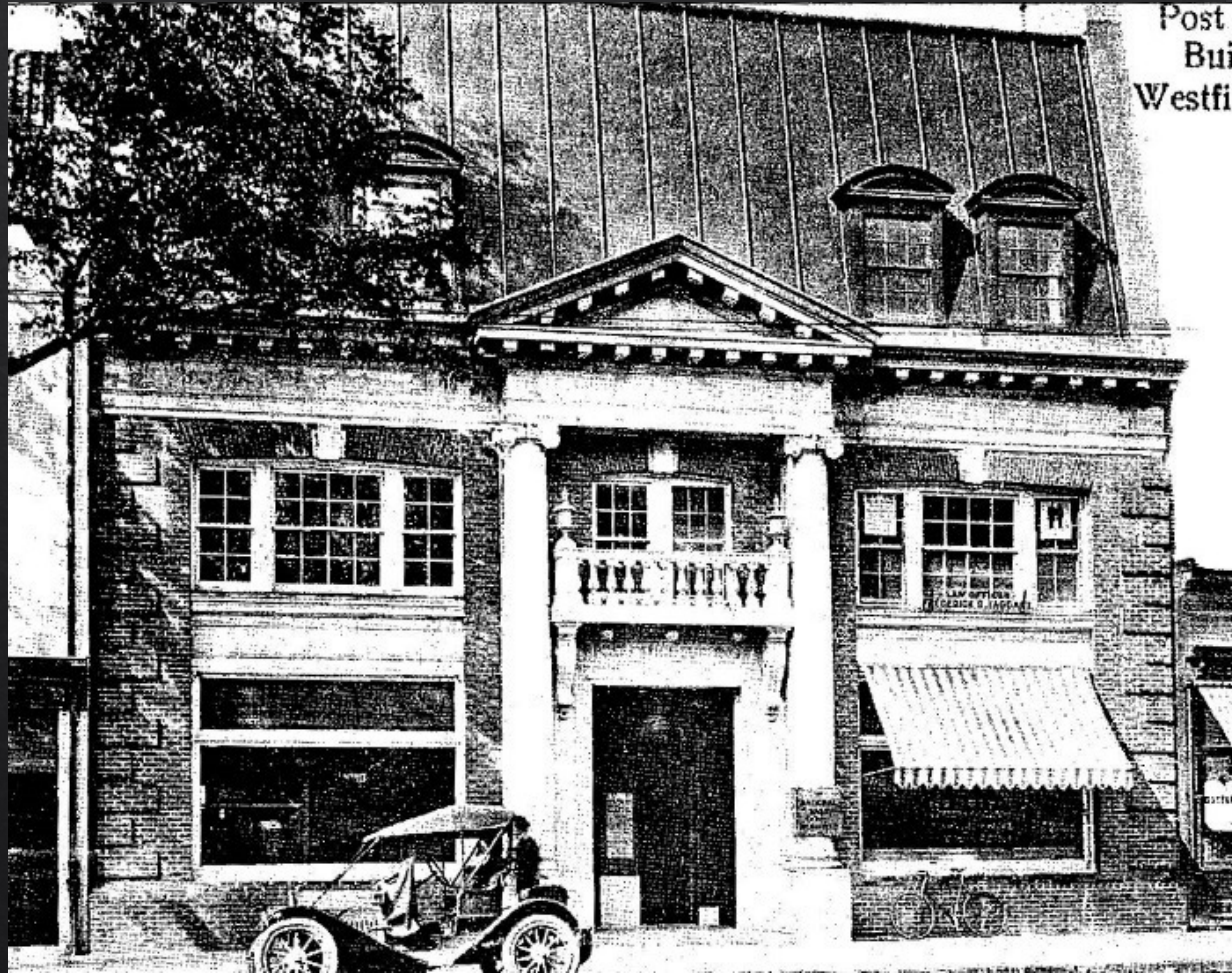
266 East Broad Street (constructed 1906 as Carnegie Library)



1906 Image



33-39 Elm Street (constructed c.1917 as Post Office)



c.1920 Image



44 Elm Street (constructed 1903)



1935 Image



53 Elm Street



82-86 Elm Street



Undated historic image



112 Elm Street (constructed 1912 as Westfield Theatre)



1912 Image



107-115 Quimby Street



Conclusions/Recommendations

Downtown Westfield is a well-preserved collection of late-nineteenth-to-mid-twentieth-century commercial buildings that comprise a cohesive downtown district dominated by pedestrian-scale, largely one-, two-, and three-story vernacular commercial buildings with storefronts and masonry facades.

An Intensive-Level Architectural Survey should be prepared for Downtown Westfield, which would utilize this preliminary survey and report as a base. This survey will make recommendations of potential sites or districts for local landmark designation or listing on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.

The Historic Preservation Commission may also pursue listing Downtown Westfield on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places or local designation as a historic district.